

Message Text

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47

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /077 W

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R 271139Z NOV 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH 0212

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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FOR D/PW: SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, FR, VN

SUBJECT: MIA RELATIVES TRIP TO PARIS TO MEET LE DUC

THO: STATUS REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 257459; (B) USDEL JEC PARIS 27937

1. MIA GROUP CALLED NOVEMBER 25 AT NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN PARIS TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH LE DUC THO. ACCORDING TO THEIR LATER REPORT, THEY WERE RECEIVED CORDIALLY BY TWO SECRETARIES (PROBABLY FIRST SECRETARY PHAN HUY THONG AND THIRD SECRETARY NGO NGUYEN PHUONG, BUT THE NAMES WERE NOT CLEARLY RECEIVED). THE CONVERSATION LASTED OVER AN HOUR. THE SECRETARIES AGREED TO TRANSMIT THE GROUP'S REQUEST TO LE DUC THO'S PARTY AND TO TRY AND CONTACT THE GROUP IF A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED, BUT THEY WOULD MAKE NO PROMISES AND STRESSED THO'S BUSY SCHEDULE. THE GROUP LEFT WITH THE FEELING THAT THEIR REQUEST WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE HONORED, BUT THEY PLAN TO WAIT OUT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR A WHILE. AS OF LATE NOVEMBER 26,

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THEY HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED.

2. AS EXPECTED, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TRIED TO SHIFT ALL BLAME FOR THE MIA IMPASSE TO THE USG. THE TWO NVN SECRETARIES COMPLAINED ABOUT NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF "RECONSTRUCTION" ASSISTANCE UNDER ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SAID AT ONE POINT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(6) IS INTEGRALLY RELATED TO ALL OTHER ARTICLES. THEY ALSO BROUGHT UP THE OCTOBER 8 STATEMENT OF THE PRG AND THE OLD "200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS" CHARGE. THE MIA GROUP RECOGNIZED THESE POINTS AS SLANTED PROPAGANDA BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS IMPRESSED HOW THOROUGHLY INFORMED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SEEMED TO BE, PARTICULARLY ON INTERNATIONAL PRESS TREATMENT OF THE MIA ISSUE.

3. AMBASSADOR RUSH RECEIVED THE GROUP IN A BRIEF COURTESY CALL NOVEMBER 26.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM THEIR REMARKS TO USDEL OFFICER, THE GROUP WILL PROBABLY BE SATISFIED IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY DECLARES THAT A MEETING WITH THO IS IMPOSSIBLE BUT AGREES TO TAKE THE GROUP'S LETTER FOR TRANSMITTAL. THIS APPEARS TO BE THE GROUP'S REAL AIM. HOWEVER, THEY ARE ALSO EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF REACHING THO PERSONALLY BEFORE HE LEAVES PARIS DECEMBER 3.
WILLIAMS

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